

Paris. April 29. '57

Dear Lizzie, I think here I am in Paris, & my journal back in England a fortnight ago! Well before saying anything of the busy present I think it best to take up the past, & so return to a "first night ago today". Dr. Gray came home to me early lunch, & we took the omnibus into London to call on Mrs. Lawrence in the elegance of my new straw bonnet & white camel's hair. But I can't tell you how I loathed wearing these things into London; it had been so smoky & the cast wind so strong for the few last days as to blow the smoke somewhat even & new, & when you were in London itself it seemed like a dark cloud over everything & it is almost to me like the fresh whiteness disappearing under little "blacks" as they call them. One face & collar can be washed again to be sure, but one's new ribbons cannot. And I scarcely ever wear my camel's hair into London for that reason - it is quite refreshing to get out to blow again where the air is so much clearer - I think I should be very discontented to live in London. Well we got out at the corner & walked to Mrs. Lawrence's, & the servant said Mrs. Lawrence was "not at home" but Dr. Gray said "I must go in a minute while he went off to see Mrs. Lawrence about his letters & passport" so I went into the library. After awhile Mrs. Lawrence came in, wrapped in a shawl, & looking very tired. She said she was taking advantage of the cessation of patients for Dr. Gray to have the house - but in order, ^{she} as if she had been, & I told her I was very sorry she had come down, for I had no intention of seeing her, but as Dr. Gray & I were obliged to come together he must leave me somewhere while attending to business. But I'm very sorry, I must say, for I thought she would think me rude & unjust for leaving, indeed on coming in, though she was very kind. The two English people have told us Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence were very much liked - They are always cordial & good-natured, they entertain which more of our ministers have done before, that is so much done so long a while - and Mrs. Lawrence always has a ready word on public occasions. Mrs. Lawrence would not be thought to singular here as at home. And I am sure their country men ought to be satisfied, they are so really cordial & good-natured. I should think from all accounts, in their personal attentions & kindness to Americans they were a great contrast to Mr. & Mrs. Davis here who we said to be exceedingly high & formal and egotistic too. Well soon Mrs. Lawrence's we went to the Vernon gallery to pass the time until we met Mrs. Mount at the new palace of Westminster, to which Sir Francis Palgrave had lent us one of Fox Barry's tickets. ^{Mrs. Barry is the architect} We walked down the room & across the James Park, which is an extraordinary half as large as the Common, & rejoicing in a sweet water over which you can be assured if you have not entered walking round. The day was so cold & chilly that there was not much satisfaction in being out - We found Mr. Thompson waiting for us at Port's Corner of Westminster Abbey, & we crossed over to Westminster Hall that

was a great deal of foreign accent, & the possible & rather unusual use of words which a foreigner so often has - And his accounts of things are very extravagant & doubtful - His account of his blindness for which he has lately been sitting, & his wife's blindness if it were very amusing. "He said he," I am obliged to hide ~~the~~ ^{them} under my books & my wife would burn all the copies I have. When I was sitting in the room that evening, she said, Mr. Manning, Dr. Dallich said he, I can alter that but the more he altered, the more I cried! & when it came home & my wife saw it, she cried, & said she was sure something was the matter with me & I was unhappy. "He said Mr. Brown," when you saw it. "Thought you were a surgeon." -

Easter Sunday we had written to the Harbours saying we would come over & dine with them & go to church. I therefore did not go to New Church, preferring the afternoon service on Easter Sunday - Dr. Gray went alone & then we took our way to the Station, getting to Chatham about 2 1/2. But somehow we did not seem to be in time for service - Mr. Ward had been ill again, & scarcely seemed fit to come out & see us. - Mrs. Ward took us into the little garden to show us some cases he had prepared to send to the Exhibition, & among others he sends the "New bottle" which first suggested the idea to him, & in which the ferns have now been growing 17 years! & nothing done for them all that time! - We had a very pleasant meeting with them all, Stephen & his wife & that Ward & were there too. It poured with rain after dinner, so we could not go out - And we had foolishly come without umbrellas; we sent in a girl, as we thought in good time for the 2.30 train, but the boy was forever, & we could only hope to reach the 9.30 - When we were about half way to the station, Dr. Gray discovered that he had put on the wrong coat, & in the pocket of his own were our return tickets! For a few days of the holiday, the same ticket lets you go & return for a day - so new tickets must be bought; & when we got in the train to Barnes we found that the 2.30 was the last train which went to Kew, & this one went to Richmond! However it turned out better in the end, for we found a fly there which took us directly to our door - Monday we were up & got very early in the morning, for I had invited Miss Shuttleworth to dinner at Cambridge & Miss M. Bayly, & Miss M. B. B. & Miss M. B. to come & have a day of the Easter holidays with me; her school-mistress was to send her with a servant to the station, & I was to meet her there. & accompany her to Kew - where we were back again at 10 o'clock - Having merely gone in & out again, I left Dr. Gray to accomplish wonders in town - She is a pleasing young woman, & I think enjoyed this day, for she scarcely knows a person out of her school connections - She talks nothing but French, very few words of English, so I had a hard practice in the French language, & I think you could scarcely have heard anything more amusing than my attempts to explain things, when showing her through the gardens & houses. We had a lovely morning when I went into London, & it was very pleasant when we first went into the garden, but clouds began to gather & as we came back to our lodgings about 10 o'clock to get some lunch, it began to rain; I looked at

the ship hoping we might have fair weather, but at nine more desperately down, & at 10 o'clock we went under our umbrellas to look at the Museum, & then at 5, & then Dr. Gray escorted. Tackle. with down in the museum & again to St. John's road, & so, having then to get back himself, did not reach home until 9^{1/2} - Tuesday I was packing all day, things to take & things to leave, for of course one cannot empty one's room, though we have kept one down stairs to store away, things in. Wednesday I went up to lunch with the Hookers & bid them good-bye. They were very kind & cordial. And on leaving there Dr. Gray & I walked down to take the omnibus to Turnham Green to call on Mrs. Lindley & her daughter who had left cards upon us the week before. Dr. Alexander came in while we were there at the Hookers & went with us to Turnham Green on his way to his own house. He is one of those who dined with us in Cambridge during the meeting of the Scientific Association, & it is the first time I have seen him in England. Before I went to the Hookers my letters arrived, which I acknowledged last week. From brother from Susan & from Lizzie - A delightful packet. The rest of the day & day were devoted to packing & clearing away. And Thursday in forenoon we took our way to the train, the luggage having been sent over before. Sir Wm. was not at home when we lunched at the Hookers, so Dr. Gray went out in the P.M. & bid him good-bye, & take my advice, but he said we would be should certainly come down in the morning in time to see me - & so we walked to the station & he saw him coming down the lane - He joined us & kindly walked with us almost over to the train. A gentleman came up going in the same direction, whom Sir Wm. introduced as Capt. Hallett, & who joined us & took seats with us in the same carriage, he is brother to Trip Hallett of whom I have spoken, & is a naval Captain, & a true sailor, so frank & good-natured & merry. He has promised when we come back to take us to some of the clubs in London. From the Waterloo Station we took a cab with our luggage which had received some considerable addition in the shape of a large chest of plants Dr. Gray was taking over to Paris to study, to the London Bridge Station where we took our tickets for Paris & our places in the car for Folkestone. The train was very full & crowded. The day was lovely & everything looked so green & lovely about London, the trees in Hoxton & all so fresh, that I quite regretted leaving England. It was not so green as we drew nearer to the south-coast, but many flowering flowers were out & we were struck by the occasional bits of such charming lanes & of such banks of coarse all. We had nearly two hours to wait for the sailing of the steamer from Folkestone, & we stopped & got some soup for lunch & walked about the town, & then went on board the boat, where we had some amusement in watching the embarkation of some horses. The ride was a good deal out so the boat lay quite low; on the pier was a large crane working with iron chains - Each horse was

packed into a sort of box strongly bound with iron, iron bars arching over the horse's back, & then it was closed in front. The top was open so the horse had his head out & you could see his back, & his neck was secured by his halter fastened on one side; - to these boxes were fastened by iron rings, strong chains which again were raised into the chain of the crane, & then the box being swung up, the horse was gently lowered on deck. It was quite amusing to see the different behaviour of the horses, some so startled, others taking it quite as a matter of course, & others looking so curiously about them when introduced in mid-air. But generally they were very quiet. I counted them afterwards & found there were 17 last of all a great travelled barouche with trunks, boxes, carpet bags, &c. stung about & packed in & about it with incredible swiftness, some descending down, looking, as Dr. Gray said, when in mid air the same most unnatural manner. There were a great many people crossing the river at Folkestone, but I did not see one I should be rich, for I had not with me quite such a lot of money as I had. However I had behaved myself with the new fashioned decency, & so I stopped light round my waist, & the sea was beautiful & calm, as it was & the cliffs were most agreeably discoloured. The coast of England is very picturesque, the white chalk cliffs so very steep & the cliffs were bold & high, we could see Dover & Shakespeare's cliff, as it is called. The coast of France is also much more bold than I had imagined. In truth we had a very pleasant voyage, & I have nothing more serious to record than that I did not see the Shetland. At very shortly we reached Boulogne about 5 P.M. & having passed through the examination room & our luggage looked at, & our baggage taken out. My travelling bag searched, we repaired to the Boulogne by the luggage platform for Paris, for we meant to go on a train. We once into the tender mercies of a commissaire, who advised Dr. Gray to put me into the omnibus for the Chemin de fer, to wait while they looked over the luggage, & then I waited a little, & assuming myself with waiting the looks of the passers by, & the constant coming in their white caps & heavy wooden shoes which their short bell-shaped skirts seemed to magnify, the workmen in their own, the ~~hatter~~ with bright red caps, & planks of soldiers in their brightly dyed uniforms. After an hour the baggage was duly searched & dispatched to the railway, & then Dr. Gray & another messenger having taken their places in the omnibus, we made good our way in the same direction. We did not find a restaurant as we expected at the station but only a cafe - so we walked back into the town & went in to dine at one of the hotels, ordering a dish or two as in the restaurant. At 9 we were established in the cars for our night ride to Paris. I took the only furnished & wrapped my head in a mantle & folded a large shawl about me, Dr. Gray took another, & as the French carriages are large allowing 4 persons on a side & divided by an arm in the middle, we having one seat & appropriated the one opposite, had a

very comfortable rooms & some good food. There were only two ladies besides ourselves
in our carriage, until stopping in a place about 3:30, & then were sitting,
& after that on at Paris I had no more much room, & did not sleep much.
But as we drew near Paris I was interested in seeing the face of the country,
it looks so very different from England! It has not that air of perfect cul-
tivation & town order that the country was even farther advanced, for the
houses were more so. We reached Paris about 5 & had a most civil examination
at the custom-house, they merely looked into the trunk, did not even open
the bags & valise, & asking Dr. Fay if his chest contained anything but dried
plants, locked them up again & went on. We decided to go to M. de Meville's while the
Lowells should be in Paris, & take our lodgings later, so we got there by 6 or soon
after, & passing the concierge, were ushered up 5 flights of stairs, where we found
a pretty small but a bed chamber adjoining, & the first thing I did was to
undress & go to bed for a couple of hours, we were up to breakfast, left an
cart & a well, some time about 10, & then called out to see Aunt Siggie, whom
we found in the midst of packing. There Dr. Fay left me while he went
over to the Jardin des Plantes. And I passed the time until he came back
talking over the many things I asked. They all seemed very new.

Bright - he went back to our hotel about 3, for I was tired enough to be glad
to rest; we dined at table d'hôte about 5 & then ordered some fine for it was
very chilly. In both in Paris they bring you up wood water as women, & you
know that up as you please, & then order more. Thus paying by the stick as
it were. Saturday Siggie was so kind as to go with me to choose a dress
& mantle - I got a mantle in which change brown & black, there is not
much silk in it, but it has a fringe, about 1/4 of a yard deep on the lower bottom,
& sewing with a little trimmings, & it is iron fringe given on the shoulders,
viewing the wide-necked dress above, then? But that as good as a question
plate? - It is very, saffron & white looking, I mean to have one under jacket
made to match for colder weather.  I looked at gowns, for an evening dress,
but the fashion is too gay for my taste, such bright colored touches of
floss on high colored grounds, or I asked for something more quiet, so we
looked at some handsome plaids of two colors, & some cheaper stamped
ones in small calico patterns; economy prevailed for the moment over taste,
& I chose the cheaper. The dinner with Aunt Siggie & met Mrs. Lawrence with
his two boys whom he was to come back with him to America, they having been
at boarding school here in Paris. The evening passed so pleasantly that I had
idea yet was so late before we went - almost 11. Sunday morning we expected
to be all ready to go to church & breakfast on our way out at the foot of our 5 flights;
but on sitting down we could see nothing of coffee-room, the house was at work in
the stable & manger, & there was no one to point the way, so we decided to
try a Café. It was a chilly day, threatening rain, & looking into several windows that
did not quite please us, we found our way to the Palais National, & were tempted

at the Café Berg. I confess to feeling rather awkward on first entering this great room, filled with little tables & seeing myself on every side reflected by mirrors; the attention of the waiters was at first bewildering, but one soon gets quite used & takes everything as a matter of course. We had each a sort of "miche" (a loaf), one of those delicious, delicate French rolls almost half a yard long, & about as large as a man's wrist, & the sweet-buttermilk. When we had finished we took our way to the Bourse, where we were in very good time for service. The train, however, reached, but I could not follow him as well as when I heard French reaching in the winter. It takes a little time to get up one's wits if following. After church it rained hard & we hurried back in the wet. After dinner we went on to Hunt Liggins & spent the Ev. with them. Monday morning Dr. Gray & I set off early to go & look for apartments, & having taken some addresses from a book, set off first for the other side of the river, for if we could get a good situation near the Jardin des Plantes & also where I could walk alone it would be more convenient. We went exploring wherever notices to let were hung out, if the rooms looked nice, we mounted once on quatuorze, & were shown blank rooms, as in my question then. I had forgotten to add "meuble" (the French for vacant rooms, looking out from the gardens of the Museum - but alas! they would not be vacant until the 1st of May, & that would be no use; they were filled with the books of some students, one "un étudiant" (his thought might be amused could they know how we had been exploring their private domains) so finding nothing that seemed to be right we decided to come back & find one on this side the river, which was recommended as being near the Bonaparte the Tuileries & the Champ Elyées where I could see the great main Dr. Gray was away. We found our way to the Rue de la Harpe, the Pont Neuf, & then to the "Maison de la Harpe, au second" we ascended a long, & were ushered into a pretty enough French saloon. After waiting a moment or two Madame returned from one of the next doors, evidently just out of bed in a dressing-gown & slipper & begged us to come again in half an hour, as the room "n'est pas fait!" (The word not there, especially & pronounced "disarranged") - so we retraced our steps. Meanwhile the landlord had been sent some & Dr. Gray's judgment on it was, that it was better when closer examined, but at a little distance looked like a Bd. Calico! - My own opinion of it did not improve, so we carried it in for Hunt Liggins' judgment, & as she said the same thing & thought it never would look like anything, back got the victory over economy & I decided to change it if possible for the Rue de la Harpe, & Dr. Gray went with me & they went next day & changed it at once. And then I met ^{her} with universal approbation. Then I went with Dr. Gray to

his tailor's, & then we took our way again to Madame's was just
ready to receive us & showed us the room of which we were to take our
choice; "For" the ante-chamber, which taking the long dress from the Salon
& putting it in place of the toilet & with some rearrangements would
make the Salon, & the Salon could receive a bed & a wash-stand, & "Voilà,
tout complet!" On the chamber where Madame was sitting, furnished
French style as a chamber with a little closet for a dressing room, & leading
by a very dark passage to another dark little room which could be used
as a Salon; we entered the salon chamber, which we were to take for
100 francs a month paid in advance, & 12 francs more for the concierge
& the bonne who takes care of the room. Then we pleased, we were to have
our breakfast at the house of the restorator, & Madame D. was in light &
fire - For dinner we were to dine at the Café - & as we were called, & was
poor to come the next evening - After dinner we went in to pass the evening
with Aunt Lizzie who was to be off for Nantes early the next morning.
They meant to be back Saturday evening to see the great fête Sunday,
& to take the final departure for London the next week. Sophie &
Henrietta were left in charge, & the rest of the Establishment dismissed.
Tuesday! spent waiting for the news - matter to allow our dress before
dinner, for I should have said on Saturday we expected Dr. Trebbia friend
of Dr. ^{an English} ~~Paris~~ ^{resident} in Paris, to call and when we waited until the last
moment, thinking we should be late for dinner & he could not be coming,
as we opened the door up, out he stood before it - He accompanied us
a few steps, & invited us to dine there Tuesday at 6 1/2. - It waited only
the which set badly, changed before then - but the woman never came
until 12, so that was hopeless. I wrote & packed & made ready for our
removal, for we meant to take our things & leave them at Madame
Lacoste's as we went to dine, & to sleep - Dr. Ray made a visit
round there in the afternoon & reported all things ready - But for the
dinner & first experience of French cooking must wait until the
next letter

I am finishing my letter Tuesday, May 18. I am by Mrs. Franklin's house.
The couple leave early tomorrow morning for London & as they stay a
fortnight, & then return ^{to the continent} for their summer time. The house is German, English,
and, to France, & goes & back to Rome for the winter, then to their
house & - it is entirely decided - I must thank me, earlier & shorter
others last week - and with fondest love to all, and with
most affectionate love -